**Colloquial Contractions**

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**Summary:**

Colloquial contractions are frequently heard in fluent English speaking. They are often seen in some lyrics as well. Those contractions like wanna(want to), dunno(don’t know), and gimme(give me) are commonly used in informal spoken language when the people speak very fast. They should not be used in formal English writing except for texting.

There are some sound changes in these contractions. They are often the combination of two or more words, and some sounds disappear while some combine with other. Take, whatcha, for example. Whatcha is the combination of “what are you.” Concerning the sound, the word “what” is remained, but the sound of “are” is reduced, and “you” simply becomes ch-sound and schwa.

Some things are worth noticing. First, some of those contractions are fixed and must follow certain subject. For example, people would say “I dunno” instead of “he dunno” because “dunno” is the contraction of “don’t know.” Second, some Taiwanese students learn it from the textbook and speak it on purpose. If the speaking speed is not fast enough, it would sound very unnatural.

**References:**

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